

Application No. 09/780,283
Amendment "A" dated October 24, 2005
Reply to Office Action mailed September 30, 2005

REMARKS

The first Office Action, mailed September 30, 2005 considered claims 1-28. Claims 1-2, 5, 9-14 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Dimitrova et al. (U.S. Patent Application No. 6,185,363). Claims 1, 5, 9-10, 14 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nagasawa (U.S. Patent Application No. 6,842,578).¹ Claims 21-24 are allowed.

By this paper, claims 1-20 and 25-28 have been cancelled, which are the only claims that were rejected in the last action, such that the only claims that remain pending are the allowed claims 21-24. It will be appreciated, however, that cancellation of claims 1-20 and 25-28 evinces no intent on the part of the applicant to surrender the claimed subject matter. To the contrary, claims 1-20 and 25-28 are merely being cancelled from the present application at this time to expedite issuance of the allowed claims 21-24. Applicants therefore reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the cancelled claims in a related continuation, as is there current intent.

Accordingly, in view of the foregoing, and the fact that there are no other unresolved rejections or objections of record, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending application is now ready for immediate allowance.

In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 24 day of October, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,



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¹ Although the prior art status and some of the assertions made with regard to the cited art is not being challenged at this time, Applicants reserve the right to challenge the prior art status and assertions made with regard to the cited art, as well as any official notice, which was taken in the last office action, at any appropriate time in the future, should the need arise, such as, for example in a subsequent amendment or during prosecution of a related application. Accordingly, Applicants' decision not to respond to any particular assertions or rejections in this paper should not be construed as Applicant acquiescing to said assertions or rejections.